of the Opposition just like the Government did in the case of Rajiv Gandhi's Foundation or the fertiliser issue.

My sole interest lies in mentioning some of the grievances of my State, Manipur. There is a North-Eastern region which is considered as a dark region in respect of industry. Manipur, as you know, is a State which is known for extending full cooperation to the Centre in all matters. Recently, there was an air crash in Imphal in which an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed on a hill minutes before it was to land in Imphal killing 69 persons on board. Then the Minister of Civil Aviation went there to supervise the rescue operation and all that. It is a State surrounded by hills and hills with a spacious area of valley

18.00 hrs.

It is a very much neglected State. But there live your sisters and brothers whom you call Indians. They were not Indians earlier. They were simply Manipuris. They have a different language, they have different statures and culture. But the Central Government, considering that it will be in the interests of the country made them 'Indians'. But unfortunately they are now very much disappointed and frustrated. The youngsters who are impatient, some of them, have gone underground and they have become terrorists. Why? Because, they are very much disappointed. They expected very much from the Indian Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you please continue your speech tomorrow? We will take up the flood and drought situation. We had decided that at Six O'clock we would take up the discussion on floods and droughts.

(Interruptions)

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Flood and Drought Situation in the Country— *Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : We will now resume the discussion on floods and drought in the country. One hour is made available for the discussion here. I have a few names with me. I would request each of the Hon. Members to complete his speech in five to seven minutes' time so that four, five or six Hon. Members can speak and the Hon. Minister may reply. Shri Pius Tirkey was on his legs. He may please continue.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): The Minister should also inform the House about the latest position.

MR. SPEAKER: He is going to do it. If you want, I will allow you also to speak.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Nobody from our group has spoken on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurdwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, that day I was submitting that it is criticized in every session. But when there are floods or drought the Government takes a different stand and we are also in a tight spot. We can neither save them, nor provide them medicines nor food nor shelter. This is the position when we have Flood Commission. It was set up long time ago in 1958. The committee also set targets and identified the flood prone areas. At the same time many stations were set up for the purpose of forecasting and maintaining vigilance. Forecasting units were supposed to identify the flood prone areas and warn the people well in time. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the people were not warned in time? What is the proof that they did not leave the place despite being warned. This led to a heavy loss of life and property. Why did the sta-

[Sh. Pius Tirkey]

tions set up for forecasting not warn the people beforehand? The Government so far have not made any provision for those who suffered heavy losses due to this. I have figures with me and I hope these are correct. There are 500 hydro Metrological stations and Forecasting centres. They did not give any warning.

I have got the figures of West Bengal. About 26.5 lakh hectares area of land has been identified as a flood prone area, which comes to about 30 per cent of the total area of the state. Only 19.5 lakh hectares out of it has been protected. Floods and erosion have been causing loss of about Rs. 26.90 crores. Ganga Flood Control Commission was set up and it was asked to identify the area being eroded by the Ganga. Fertility of land is also being affected. Similar situation prevails in many other states like Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal etc. A separate Commission was set up for them in 1987. I would like to know whether the Government would take their advice into consideration. I would like to submit that due to the natural calamites country suffers a heavy loss of life and property every year and there spreads many diseases. Inspite of all this the Government did nothing to protect the people. Flood prone areas have already been identified. Human beings may manage to get food but the animals are starving to death. The Minister of Agriculture is present here. The Minister of Environment and Water Resources should also be present. If you look at the nature while travelling in train you would find that the mountains have completely been denuded and there is no grass on them. Unless the Ministers of Environment and Water Resources pay attention to it and prepare some scheme the situation will continue to deteriorate and discussion will go on in Parliament. We will also have to change the food habits. Wheat and rice are not the only food essential for the survival of man. We can divert to poultry and sea fish as alternative foods so that man is not forced to starve and may not be deprived of basic needs. Once again I urge upon the Government to pay attention to this matter. The Government should take measures to counter the situation whenever there is flood and drought.

[*English*]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I speak on the subject, I want to thank the Prime Minister, through you, Sir, for going over to Orissa today along with the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri K. C. Lenka and other officials. He has associated with the miseries of the people of Orissa. He has contributed Rs. 10 lakhs and promised 5,000 tonnes of rice. He has also taken the problem of Orissa into consideration. For that, again I thank him.

I also thank you, Sir, for your intervention yesterday in favour of the people of Orissa who were suffering from miseries.

On the other day, by friend Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav widely spoke about floods. Since June 15th, the whole country, Assam, Mizoram and other parts, had witnessed floods.

When this matter was raised here, there were floods in Orissa. And in those floods, 100 blocks were affected in 9 districts; five lakh acres of crop were damaged; there were 62 breaches; 1,038 houses were damaged; 17 people died; and 60,332 village roads were washed away. Along with these, there were innumerable breaches in the roads of nine districts.

No sooner Orissa has passed over this floods, again on 14th August, there were heavy floods not only in Mahanathi system but also in Brahmini, Vaitarani and Subarn Rekha systems. As a result, six districts are badly affected. One thing I want to say because it will be required to be known for the permanent control of floods in Orissa, that at Naraj, where Mahanadi system is distributed into so many ways, if the discharge of water from there would be 10 lakh cusecs, then the whole flood system can stand to it. If it is beyond 10 lakh cusecs, then there will be damage. But this time there was an expectation of 16 lakh cusecs going out of Naraj. Had it happened, it would have resulted in washing away whole of Cuttack town and more prosperous parts of Orissa. But due to the intervention of the Chief Minister and I thank him for that, about 4 lakh cusecs of water was held up at Naraj. Though risk was involved, yet this could be less. So, as a result, today in seven blocks crop has been damaged, 42,000 villages are affected and 50 lakh acres of land has been submerged in water. 300 villages are still marooned. Innumerable road breaches are there. But the unfortunate part is that when there was a necessity of approaching the people, giving them food, the Orissa Government had no means. On 14th night, they negotiated with the Army to come to their rescue. But the Army did not reach. It reached on the 18th. They also requested and negotiated with the Air Force for helicopters for dropping food. Unfortunately, that was also possible after four days. For four days there was no human contact with lakhs of people who were staying there in a miserable condition. And here we thought that our Army and our Air Force must have come to their help.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) Regarding the requisition of the Army help, as soon as the Army Headquarters received the request from the Government of Orissa on 15th, the same day, the sanction was accorded and instructions were given to Ranchi to send helicopters to Orissa. Next day, the helicopters started to go to Bhubneswar. But due to bad weather they remained landed at Ranchi. The whole day, they tried to reach Bhubneswar but failed. They came to Patna. From there they tried to reach Bhubneswar but were not successful. Again they halted at Patna. Next day, they were successful in reaching there. As soon as they reached there, rescue operations had started. So there was no delay on the part of Government of India in sending helicopters to the Government of Orissa.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: That is one factor. But the Army could have gone earlier. And I think, the helicopters could have been sent much earlier also. Four days had gone in negotiation. When people are in misery, it is no use defending ourselves. It is in bad taste and I do not like that.

Last year, there was fast flood in Orissa. In a particular area hundred years of constructions were washed away. The State Government had no money to cope with it. The then Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, went there and promised a sum of Rs. 50 crores as extra grant. But not a single pie reached there. The Orissa Government had to manage within the limit given by the Finance Commission. It will be impossible to save the people of Orissa this year. Therefore, I will urge upon the Government of India that this year's calamity in Orissa should be treated as a national calamity and the help should not be confined to the grant of Finance Commission which is much too less than the requirement. The Government of India should take into consideration this factor and the tragedy of Orissa should be treated as a national tragedy. And apart from it, I want to press that this flood problem in Orissa cannot be solved because the whole situation has undergone a change. There was 550 m.m. of rains. All the rivers are silted up. Hirakud is silted up. You cannot raise the embankment to that extent. So, it has become necessary to dredge the rivers; it has become necessary to control the silt; it has become necessary to open up the river mouths. To save Orissa from water logging, the measures which are required are the discharge of water and other measures and these should be started in a planned way.

[Sh. Lokanath Choudhury]

I want to say one more thing. This year Orissa's miseries will be worst. The Government of India should treat this not as a State affair but as a national calamity. In this connection I want to say that there are many areas in the country like Andhra and many other areas including Orissa which are chronically affected by flood, cyclone and other natural calamities. So, it is high time now that the Government of India should identify those areas and those problems cannot be solved by the resources of the State. Therefore, a Central Authority should be created for dredging the rivers; for removing the water logging from the rivers; for opening up of river mouths especially in Orissa in Chilika lake. If these permanent measures are not be taken in a planned way with the objective of completing it within the ten years, the miseries of Orissa will never go. Therefore, I would appeal to the Government, through you, Sir, that along with that, treat this calamity as a national calamity, giving all aid to Orissa- special aid- not confining to the limits of the Finance Commission and supply seeds for the next crop to Orissa. Today, availability of rice is less in Orissa. So, rice should be sent there. In addition to these measures, permanent measures should be taken. The areas in the country should be identified. The Central Authority should be created with special money to solve these problems, so that the economy in these areas is stabilised. With these words, I thank you very much.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully endorse the views given by Shri Lokanath Choudhury about the flood situation of Orissa. I must thank you and I must say that the Prime Minister has gone to Orissa today to see the flood situation there. The flood situation what I have gathered today has not improved. The situation is still in alarming stage and people are still marooned. The Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Agriculture have seen the position with their own eyes. The problem of flood, drought and even cyclone is a common phenomenon in Orissa. Every year, we used to face either drought or flood or cyclone. Unless permanent measures are taken and the Government of India comes to the assistance of the State Government, this problem of Orissa will not be solved. So, that is why I request the hon. Minister, especially the Water Resources Minister to come forward and assist the Government of Orissa. They have sent the proposal to the Water Resources Ministry regarding the permanent flood control measures. We had a meeting recently of all the MPs. We met the Minister and we also discussed about this problem. But, unless the Government of India comes forward with a helping hand to the Government of Orissa, this problem cannot be solved. That is why I say that permanent flood control measures and permanent measures in cyclone-prone areas should be taken.

As regards the damage that has been done during the current floods, I fully endorse the views expressed by Shri Lokanath Choudhury that special assistance should be given. Whatever assistance is there 75 per cent by Government of India and 25 per cent by the State Government or whatever it is that is not sufficient. If you see the damage that has been done, it requires more than Rs. 500 crores to restore it, and the Government of Orissa's total budget is hardly Rs. 800 crores. So, it is just not possible for the Government of Orissa to restore whatever damage has been done. Unless the Government of India gives special assistance, it is not possible to restore normalcy. That is why I request the hon. Minister to treat this as a national calamity. Unless you declare it as a special national calamity, whatever guidelines, whatever criteria are there, you cannot release the funds.

The former Prime Minister Chandra Shekharji, after going to Ganjam district, had announced an extra amount of Rs. 50 crores but after his announcement, he could not release that amount because it was not declared as a national calamity. So, whatever criteria are there, unless it is declared as a special national calamity, the Government of India cannot release the funds. The Prime Minister has seen the situation, the Minister has also seen the situation, so, immediately they should declare it as a national calamity and accordingly assist the Government of Orissa to restore normalcy there.

As regards the permanent flood control measures, the Mahanadi system, the Brahmani system and other systems are there but unless we go in for another dam downstream on Mahanadi and also on Vaitarni, flood control is not possible. The Government of Orissa has already submitted a programme for flood control, for raising of embankment and for desilting. Unless the river mouths are raised, it is just not possible to clear the flood water. There is silting in Hirakud dam and that is why Hirakud dam is also in a dangerous position. The Orissa Government and the World Bank are also taking steps in this regard but I think they are not adequate. Unless the Government of India takes special measures for the safety of Hirakud Dam, the entire Orissa will be washed away because Mahanadi is the main lifeline of Orssa. That is why I will only urge upon the Government of India that because of this current flood and because of the permanent nature of floods in Orissa, they must assist the Government of Orissa adequately and declare this calamity as a national calamity so that the people of Orissa can recover from this tragedy.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is good that we managed to spare a little time of the House to discuss this important issue. For the last ten days we had been discussing the matter. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a novel issue this year, we have been discussing the matter for the last forty years.

MR. SPEAKER : We have very short time. Please confine yourself to the floods in your area, otherwise it would not be possible to give adequate time to you.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am emphasising the same thing. I have been here in the Parliament for the last ten years and every year with the advent of monsoon we have discussed this matter. We discuss the flood situation in the country when monsoon starts and discuss drought situation when monsoon is over, it has become a regular feature. I would like to mention one basic thing.

Keeping all these factors in view the Ministry of Water Resources was set up in 1985. If there was more than average rainfall, the country was hit by floods and if there was no rainfall, the country was hit by drought.

Both these things are connected with water and we have not taken these issues into account. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here. But he has his limitations and is not able to help us because this subject of flood control comes under the state list. It has been provided in the Constitution. As such no central assistance is provided at the time of flood and drought and no concrete action is taken. In fact, as this issue is connected with water, it is directly dealt with by the Ministry of Water Resources which is supposed to ensure that every drop of water and every inch of land of this country is utilised. Therefore, it was very necessary for the hon. Minister of Water Resources to be present here, so that he could have suggested some solution after pondering over all the points. The hon. Minister of Agriculture will reply to the debate that is going on in the House today although, he is unable to provide any solution. We will continue to discuss these issues in this House every year, but no solution could be found because this responsibility has been given to state Governments. I want that a permanent programme should be chalked out in this regard so that a permanent

[Sh. Vilas Muttemwar]

solution could be found. The representatives of Orissa spoke a lot about the flood which has occurred in the state now-a-days. I come from Maharashtra. You have seen the flood in Vidarbha and the damage caused to Mowad village, 240 people lost their lives in it. Not only this, near about 400 people are still missing, about whom, it is not certain whether they were washed away or went away somewhere else.

In this way, these things are happening only due to the misutilisation of river waters. Through you, I would like to tell the Government and the hon. Minister of Agriculture that unless we make proper utilisation of waters of all the rivers in our country, we will continue to have discussions on this issue every year, but the problem will remain as it is.

You are fully aware how the Cauvery water dispute arose last month. The people of one state raised a lot of hue and cry when they did not get water. Water is a bare necessity of our life. One can live without food one time but it is not possible to live without water. The ground water level of our country is constantly going down. It is very necessary to give serious thought to this issue by making proper coordination of all these points, so that this discussion being done every year should be avoided. We have to constitute a fund for this purpose. Despite having discussions every year, the situation remains the same when the monsoon is over. This only wastes the time of the House. This is not the question of any particular party. Some effective measures has to be taken in this regard so that flood and drought could be controlled. I would also like to say that in 1972 Dr. Rao had made a recommendation for preparing a scheme for connecting the rivers, Ganga and Cauvery. The estimated expenditure of the project at that time was about Rs. 12,000 crores and today the escalated expenditure would touch the staggering figure of Rs. 50,000 crores. But the project would have covered all the states. In the last session, a separate issue was raised by the people of Assam regarding the Brahmputra which causes flood every year. The question of the Brahmputra and the Ganga.........

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking about all floods excepting in your own constituency. I will allow you to speak about your constituency.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, that is what I want to say that some permanent arrangement should be made to control floods.

MR. SPEAKER: The time is very limited.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Regarding flood in Mowad I would only say that relief and central assistance should be provided to the victims of flood in the village.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shri Sriballav Panigrahi.

[*Translation*]

Please don't repeat the points already covered, so that others could make their point.

[*English*]

I am following a method. I am allowing the Members from one State, Orissa, and then I will go to Karnataka and then to other States. I called out the name of Shri Vilas Muttemwar but it should have been Shri Panigrahi. I am going by this. I will allow you to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): We have one Member from Assam also.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, as you know, Orissa is a very poor and backward State and it is now reeling under the severity of floods. I would say that floods are a regular feature. Orissa is known as the home of natural calamity. Every year the State is visited by natural calamities—be it floods, drought or cyclone. But the degree or the magnitude of the calamity varies. It differs every year. The present floods which Orissa is experiencing right now are severe.

Day before yesterday this matter was raised here and yesterday we also raised this matter in this House, and requested our hon. Prime Minister to make an on-the-spot study and assessment of the situation. We are grateful that he readily agreed and he paid a visit this morning itself. Sir, this goes to show the sympathy of the Prime Minister himself and of the Congress Government, and the Orissa people expect a lot from the Prime Minister after his visit.

Sir, Orissa had a total number of more than 45,000 revenue villages and with hamlets it will be slightly over 50,000 villages and out of that 9,404 villages spread over 999 gram panchayats under 101 C.D. Blocks in 7 districts are severely affected by this flood. So, this very figure goes to show the magnitude of this flood. As you know, of course the Ninth Finance Commission have come out with their recommendations and according to their recommendations, Orissa's share will be around Rs. 50 crores annually. In any normal year it is all right, Sir. But in an extraordinary situation like this, it is certainly beyond the competence, beyond the capacity of the State Government to meet the calamity of this magnitude. Therefore, Sir, I would urge upon the Government of India to consider this case sympathetically and do all that is possible to mitigate the sufferings of the afflicted people.

Now, this has two aspects—long-term and short-term. Regarding the short-term aspect, I would say that some rice is distributed, some gratuity relief is given and some house building grant is given. It is just a token of Government sympathy. The loss that occurs in a calamity like this can never be compensated. No Government can compensate it, neither the Orissa Government nor the Government of India can compensate it. All that is given is just a token of Government sympathy. So, let it be done—house building grant and all that. But I would request that since it is a humanitarian problem, let there be no politics in it. What we find is, I am constrained to observe that even in this matter political consideration is introduced locally in Orissa. That should be avoided by all means and All-Party Committees should be set up there. The Government of India should monitor from Delhi the implementation of the relief measures etc.

About the long-term measures, Sir, one hon. Member suggested about Hirakud Dam. Sir, Mahanadi is one of the mightiest rivers of India. At one time it was contemplated to have three dams to control the floods. Only at one point, i.e., Hirakud, we have constructed a dam. It is now outliving its utility with heavy silting and also cracks appearing in it, threatening the people living in the downstream there. Therefore, all-out efforts should be made to repair the dam and desilt the reservoir.

Another thing is that there are a large number of small rivers, nullahs and tributaries in Orissa and instead of going for building mighty dams which will cost huge amount that is beyond our capacity, we should tame all those nullahs and tributaries, which will go a long way in containing floods besides providing irrigation.

Sir, this time flood was of the order of 10 lakh cusecs only in the river Tel, which is a tributary of river Mahanadi. At Naraj which is the head of the delta, a flood of more than 10 lakh cusecs causes havoc. And this time it was more than 12.8 lakh cusecs there.

Therefore, what I would suggest is that all the tributaries, nullahs etc.

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

should be tamed by way of construction of dams over there. You know, it is a national waste of water. The C.W.C. and other expert bodies should address themselves to this problem and find out the solution.

Sir, another hon. Member suggested, and it is in fact so, that only with the occurrence of flood we discuss it here, and then again forget about it after that. So, there should be a long-term programme. On the one side, floods are claiming lives and on the other side drought also makes the lives of the farmers miserable. So, there should be a comprehensive and coordinated action plan to prevent drought and flood.

With these words, I thank you for giving an opportunity to speak on this topic.

18.36 hrs.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming from a district which is constantly affected by drought.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): The Deputy Speaker is also speaking now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Deputy Speaker can speak when the Speaker is in the Chair.

SHRI CHNDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): There should be a time when the Speaker can also speak.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very dangerous for the Speaker to speak.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH: My district Tumkur is constantly hit by famine. Now, throughout the country there is flood havoc, but in our district there is famine; coconut gardens are withering away, cattles are sold in *jathas* and there is scarcity for fodder. For this purpose, I would suggest that the rivers Ganga and Cauvery should be linked up. If it is taken up, I think, it will solve the problem. There is a strained relationship between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka because of water. If Ganga-Cauvery link is taken up, I think, we can solve major problems. I wish that the Government should very seriously think about this matter so that both flood and famine problems can be solved. In North India also, according to some experts, some rivers can be linked up, with the result the whole country can have the benefit of sufficient water.

Sir, so far as the channel from Hemavathi to Tumkur is concerned, I should be highly thankful to our senior friend Shri Devegowda. He was a Minister in our State for a very long time in charge of irrigation and public works departments. During his tenure, he was able to give funds, with the result the major channel work was completed. But, still for want of sufficient funds, acquisition matters are getting delayed and digging of the channels has slowed down. Therefore, I request the Central Government to come to the rescue of the Government of Karnataka and allot more funds. Further, I want to suggest that a development board should be constituted consisting the districts of Kolar, Tumkur, Chitradurgh and Bangalore (Rural). Virtually these four districts are hit by drought almost every year. To avoid this, a development board shall have to be constituted and special measures shall have to be taken up to see that sufficient dry land development programmes are taken up so that the problem in Karnataka can be solved to a little extent. I hope the Government would apply its mind in this respect and help the people of Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the conscientious Members of this House would like to complete the discussion on this topic today even if we have to sit for a little more time beyond 7.00 p.m.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would only like to point out some of the major damages caused recently due to torrential rain and flood in the river Cauvery. The hon. Members have expressed their views about the seriousness of the flood. But, in Karnataka after 1924, this is the first time we have witnessed this type of flood in the river Cauvery.

I would like to mention only three or four points.

In the recent floods, eight people died and six people were washed away. Unfortunately, sufficient care is not taken by State Government to give compensation to the flood victims.

About 2,000 houses totally collapsed and 1,000 houses were partially damaged. Crops were totally washed away in some areas and were damaged in some other areas.

The total damage may go beyond Rs. 50 crores. Unfortunately, the State Government has no funds.

I do not want to say in this august House about the affairs of the State Government. At this juncture, I do not want to bring in the political situation prevailing in Karnataka. But, anyway, Central Government is in a position to know what is actually going on in Karnataka through its own sources. Their own party people have framed charges against the mal-administration of the State Government.

I want the Central Government to see that funds are released.

Under the present pattern of Central Government assistance, whatever assistance they are going to give, that will be adjusted either in the form of plan assistance or loan.

Whatever it may be, the Central Government should make available Rs. 50 crores to the State Government of Karnataka to meet the flood situation.

For those who have lost their houses, funds should be made available to construct their houses through Jawahar Rozgar Yojana so that the poor people can be rehabilitated.

The area that has been affected is only Cauvery Basin districts.

Mysore, Hassan, Mandya, Coorg and Chikmagalore are the areas which are seriously affected. Tanks are breached. Houses have collapsed and crops have been totally damaged.

I, therefore, insist on the hon. Minister that necessary funds should be made available to the State Government of Karnataka to meet the present crisis.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the havocs created by the floods and droughts in the country. Infact every year the people of this country, particularly, the farmers are affected by these natural calamities. The Centre is spending crores of rupees every year for the relief programmes. Instead, we have to think about permanent solution for these problems. I urge upon the Govt. of India through you Sir, to link Ganga and Cauvery. All the States from Uttar Pradesh to Karnataka would be linked and the farmers can grow more food. The economic condition of the farmer will improve. This plan to link Ganga and Cauvery is pending for a long time. I hope that the Centre would take up this matter seriously and link these two major rivers of our nation.

Some districts like Mysore, Mandya, Coorg are affected by floods. Our senior colleague has said that there is mal-administration in these districts. I do not agree with his state-

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*Translation of the speech orginally delivered in Kannad.

[Sh. K. H. Muniyappa]

ment. The Chief Minister has already visited all the flood affected areas in the State and appropriate measure have been taken in this regard. Mr. H. D. Devegowda said that plan expenditure may be cut. I do not agree with him. A suggestion has been made not to spend the plan expenditure money for relief programmes. I am also of the same opinion that the plan expenditure money should not be spent for flood relief works.

Shri H. D. Devegowda in his speech demanded that the Centre should release fifty crores of rupees for relief programmes in the flood affected areas of my State. I join him in his request and I hope that the Centre would immediately release the required amount to the flood affected people of Karnataka. The permanent drought Districts are Kolar, Bangalore, Chitradurga, Tumkur and Bellary. I urge the Hon'ble Minister to take permanent measures in these Districts.

Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on this burning problem of the country and with these words I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I would like to say that unfortunately due to heavy floods in river Cauvery and river Netravathy, both flowing from my constituency, heavy damages have been caused.

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): You are not releasing water for Tamil Nadu. That is why there are floods. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: I will come to that later. As I was telling a little while ago, the river Cauvery is flowing from Coorg part of my constituency and the river Netravathy is flowing from Dakshina Kannada District, the part of my Mangalore Parliamentary constituency and they have caused heavy damages. 14 people have lost their lives due to heavy floods. On account of breach of river bunds and stream bunds, loss has been caused to the standing-crops. Also, due to formation of mud-heaps and soil erosion considerable damage has been caused to the fields.

Sir, we have been hearing the praise showered by our Orissa friends on the Prime Minister for his visit to Orissa. We are happy that the Prime Minister has visited Maharashtra also. But I am sorry to say that the Prime Minister has not bothered to visit Karnataka where so much of damage has been caused...(*Interruptions*) I would request the hon. Prime Minister to pay an immediate visit to Karnataka for an on-the-spot assessment of the damage caused to life and property. I would request that if not the Prime Minister at least the hon. Agriculture Minister to pay a visit there. What has happened is that damages are being assessed and compensation is being awarded at a meagre rate of Rs. 1.25 per cent of land for the loss of standing crops. A sum of Rs. 4 per cent i.e. at Rs. 400 per acre is being awarded for damages caused to the lands. This is given to the agriculturists who are having an income less than Rs. 4800 per annum and only they are entitled for this compensation. It is high time all these norms revised.

MR. SPEAKER: Who is assessing the damage? I suppose, it is the State Government which does this and not the Central Government.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: The Central Government has not come to the assistance of the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: That is to be decided by the State Government. Let us come to the next point now.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: The State Government has got meagre resources at its command. That is why I request, through you, Sir, the Central Government to grant immediate relief to Karnataka so that all these things could be revised and proper damages could be awarded.

Further, there are also damages caused to the roads. Vehicles cannot move on the road across the river Netravathy, on the Panemangalore bridge. Anytime, the movement of traffic between Mangalore and Bangalore through this National Highway No. 48 via this Panemangalore bridge may be cut-off. Also, there was landslide along this National Highway No. 48 and the Railway-link between Mangalore and Bangalore was cut-off. It remained cut-off for a number of days. There were heavy floods in Puttur. Bantwal and Uppinangadi area in my constituency in South Canara district. Then there was severe sea erosion in the Ullal area in my constituency.

My other friends have mentioned about many other measures which would prevent the occurrence of floods and drought. I would submit that if proper measures are taken to have the dredging in the sea, like the construction of break waters, the river water will be taken inside the sea and the floods would be controlled.

MR. SPEAKER: You are giving a new point. Very good.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: There is one more important point. The river beds also should be dredged and also the sea bed should be dredged at the point where the river joins the sea. Break waters inside the sea should be constructed so that water in the sea could easily flow inside the sea and floods could be controlled.

I once again request the Central Government to give adequate assistance to the Karnataka State immediately.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikkaballapura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many Hon. Members have already spoken about the havocs of floods and droughts. Every year the Govt. is spending crores of rupees for relief works.

Regarding the drought situation our Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Shri S. Mallikarjunaiah has given the true picture that prevails in Karnataka. The districts of Tumkur, Bellary, Chitradurga and my constituency Chikkaballapura are affected by the drought. Regarding floods our senior colleague. Shri H. D. Devegowda has spoken elaborately. Fourteen persons have lost their lives. Property worth several lakhs of rupees has been lost. I urge upon the Centre to look into this crisis seriously and take suitable measures to help the affected people.

Floods occur every year and much of the water flows into the sea. The only solution for this perennial loss is to link Ganga and Cauvery rivers. The long pending projects must be taken up at the earliest. Upper Bhadra Project has to be taken up immediately. This can provide water for irrigation to six districts which are prone to drought. Bangalore, Tumkur, Chikkaballapura. Chitradurga and Bellary are the areas which are affected by drought. The farmers are not getting water even if they dig the earth 400 ft. deep. This is the condition of the drought-affected areas.

In addition to linking Ganga and Cauvery the water of Mahanadi should be diverted to the South. Then only the country can obtain prosperity and lives of farmers would improve.

In the Cauvery delta many people have been affected by the floods this year. The districts affected are Mysore, Mandya and Coorg. The State

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*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannad.

[Sh. V. Krishna Rao]

Govt. has taken certain measures. In addition to this the Centre should come forward to provide all assistance to the affected people. I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to rush aid to the flood affected areas immediately.

Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on this important issue and with these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand there is flood in Orissa, Karnataka and Maharashtra and on the other Bihar is experiencing drought. Although, it is said that Bihar is rich in natural resources, all these resources belong to Central Government. Whenever flood or drought occurs in the state, the entire responsibility of combating the calamities is entrusted to the state Government. Just as a part of India is known as Southern India, a part of Bihar is known as southern Bihar. We call it Jharkhand. Recently, I visited that region twice. There are 14 districts under this region, but only paddy could be grown on 12 per cent to 15 per cent land area in the entire region. Only one crop is produced there and the Kharif crop was destroyed. Today the people there, are very concerned about employment. West Bengal is the neighbouring state. All the labourers and farmers of our state, who do not get any work in the fields migrate to West Bengal, Assam, Nagaland and Andaman-Nicobar Islands. The entire country is experiencing drought. Therefore, the Government should make some permanent arrangement for irrigation. Long ago, when I was neither an M.L.A. nor an M.P., I had read in the newspapers about a scheme that was suggested by Shri K. L. Rao in respect of Bihar. He had suggested that in order to fight both flood and drought in Bihar, a canal should be drawn from river Ganga and taken upto southern Bihar.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India should pay attention to it. Now, I am speaking about drought but some areas in Bihar are hit by floods also. Just now, while speaking about Bengal, the hon. Member was saying that the state would be hit by floods in September and paddy has not been sown as there is drought. In the same way, Bihar will also be hit by floods when water flows into river Gandak from the foothills of Nepal. The flood situation will also arise when there will be water in some command Areas and rain waters join it. Therefore, both flood and drought occur every year. I would like to submit that Bihar is presently experiencing drought. A relief of Rs. 2 crores was provided for the districts of Godda and Dumka and the State Government has already distributed the money.

I would like to make a demand from the Government of India that it should immediately provide Rs. 100 crores for the relief fund of Bihar so that the people of that state could be saved. Otherwise, they will take recourse to theft and dacoity and loot the foodgrain godowns of the Government of India. A desperate man does all things.

Therefore, I would like to apprise the Government and the hon. Minister who is sitting here that already the Government has not given the coal royalty amounting to Rs. 550 crores to the Bihar Government. The economic condition of the state is very bad. Therefore, an amount of Rs. 100 crores should be provided to the State Government as relief so that the people of that state could be saved. In this manner the Government should formulate a permanant scheme to solve the drought and flood situation in the country and this is what I wish to say.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year my constituency is a victim of floods. Faizabad and Gorakhpur districts of Uttar Pradesh are affected by floods every year. But this year the said areas were affected by serious drought. There was rain in the first week of August after 12th June. As a result of it, thirty percent of the kharif crop could not be sown. As soon as rains started in the month of August the level of rivers started increasing. On the basis of my experience, I can assert that neither the Uttar Pradesh Government nor any other Government can control the flood situation with its own funds. There are certain practical difficulties involved in it because all the rivers flowing in our district have their origin from Himalayas or Nepal directly. It is an international issue.

Unless the Central Government takes the entire flood control problem under its jurisdiction, a permanent solution to it cannot be found. I have raised this question several times in the past. I was in the Assembly and the council of Uttar Pradesh and also in the Central Government and urged the Government once and again to have deliberations with the Government of Nepal in this regard. The Government of Uttar Pradesh formulated a scheme and forwarded it to the Centre. It was proposed to stop Ghagra river flowing through Uttar Pradesh which is also known as Karnali near Himalaya, similarly the proposal was to stop Raptin river with Bhalu Dam and also to stop river Gandak near Nepal under Pancheswar plan. These schemes were proposed and Government of India was requested to contact the Government of Nepal and implement the said schemes. A permanent solution to the flood situation of Eastern Uttar Pradesh can only be found on implementation of these schemes

Similarly, all the hon. Members have raised the issue that the rivers are shallow. I would also like to emphasise that a permanent solution of this problem should be found out. To find a permanent solution of this problem the Government should formulate a comprehensive scheme. It should be implemented at the earliest. The Central Government should set up a flood control Department to tide over the situation. Dr. K. L. Rao had formulated a scheme in this regard but in my opinion his scheme is not feasible since there is dearth of water in Ganga. There is plenty of water in Ganga only in Bihar where the other rivers like Ghagra, Rapti and Gandak join it. Devastation starts from there and the river Ganga is dry onwards and all the Vindhya hills fall in between. It is not possible for a technically and economically poor country like India to remove these hills. As such, the suggestions made by our friend Shri Suraj Mandal that the canal system from Ganga water should immediately be provided in Bihar and for that the Central Government should formulate the policies and schemes. I feel that only then a permanent solution of the problem of flood and drought in North Bihar, South Bihar and Eastern U.P. can be found.

With these brief submission, I thank you for giving me time to express my views.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to severe drought this time in Himachal Pradesh, maize and paddy crops were completely damaged. There was acute shortage of animal fodder and drinking water. Thereafter as soon as rains started in the month of August, one day it rained for just for one and a half hours and it resulted in flood in the Swan river in Una district, which falls in my constituency. 73 rivulets flow into the Swan river. Water entered into the house of the District Magistrate and 96 houses collapsed. (*Interruptions*) It was such a severe flood that the top soil of hundreds of acres of land was washed away just in one day and Government property worth Rs. 5 crores was damaged. Statistics of the losses suffered in other areas of the State are being collected. I would like to draw the attention of the

[Prof. Prem Dhumal]

House towards an important matter on which some hon. Members have also spoken. The Ninth Finance Commission has earmarked 18 crore rupees only for such natural calamities for undertaking relief measure. Whereas at the beginning of this year itself, heavy snowfall claimed thirty four human lives and besides that 2085 animals were killed and around 3400 houses were destroyed. A sum of Eighteen crore rupees was not sufficient to provide them relief. I would like to submit that the earlier procedure of assessing the actual loss and thereafter providing relief accordingly should be followed instead of acceding to the recommendations of the Finance Commission. In 1988 a sum of Rs. 56 crores was provided to Himachal Pradesh for only one item i.e. drought relief. Now the meagre amount of Rs. 18 crores has been proposed for the natural calamities occurring during the entire year. With this meagre amount it is not possible to provide relief.

I want to submit that the proposal to Channelise the water of Swan river and the other rivers falling into it was estimated to cost around rupees 200 crores. Last year it increased to Rs. 311 crores and 66 lakhs and with the devaluation of rupee it is likely to increase further. Unless the Central Government provides assistance, a state which has an annual budget of Rs. 360 crore cannot launch such a big project costing Rs. 400 crore.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request the Central Government to take over the work of channelising the Swan river. Perhaps the Central Government may also have to take loan from foreign countries and world bank for this purpose. Only then it can be undertaken. Twenty thousand acres of agricultural land can be reclaimed through channelisation. The State has formulated the scheme and forwarded the proposal to the Central Government. I would like to request that the action may be taken on it.

[English]

SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI (Hindupur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, droughts and floods are the two major calamities to the people of India. People are suffering with irreparable loss due to floods and their economy is shattered due to droughts.

India fortunately is blessed with potential river water resources. Ganga, Brahmaputra, Narmada, Tapati, Godavari, Mahanadi, Kaveri, Krishna waters are boon to the nation. It is quite unfortunate to note that vast potential river water resources are being wasted by letting them into the sea, when vast bunch of lands are yet to be irrigated in the nearby areas of rivers. Nation is facing heavy loss of property and human life due to these calamities. Peasantry is loosing their agricultural crops, facing acute drinking water shortage and fodder scarcity to the cattle.

We need a serious plan and perspective on the floods and droughts in the country, since its impact is worsening the nation's economy. It is unfortunate to say that every year flood affected areas are increasing very alarmingly and the quantum of amount spent is also increasing.

As per the statistics, it is found that the amount being spent from time to time for relief measures for droughts and floods are at increasing trend. Therefore. importance should be given to construction of dams, tanks etc. to minimise the floods and thereby helping the growth of agricultural sector. industrial sector to improve the economic status of the country and for generating employment.

Because of drought, people are constantly forced for migration, due to failure of agricultural production which leads to national loss, overcrowding the urban areas.

Andhra Pradesh in general and Rayalaseema in particular is an example for drought. But, Godavari and Krishna in Andhra Pradesh are better examples for floods. Construction of irrigation projects on Godavari and Krishna and diversion of water to Rayalaseema is a meaningful work to counter the droughts and floods. By constructing projects like Polavaram, Sriramsagar Stage II, Jhurala, Telugu Ganga, Srisailam right and left branch canals, Tungabatra High Level Parallel Canal and major and medium irrigation projects, we can minimise the damage to the State's economy. So, Government should come forward to constitute the expert committee to assess the droughts and floods and to recommend the remedial measures for monitoring them.

It is worthwhile to constitute separate boards for droughts and floods with an autonomous status by providing adequate funds. Our session is witnessing floods in some parts of the country and droughts in other parts of the country. Let us think about it seriously and chalk out the schemes on a permanent basis.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for the opportunity given to me.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country is reeling under floods and droughts. There is not a single year in which the Central as well as the State Governments do not spend billions of rupees. At least there is no dearth of water resources in the country. Till date the Minister of Water Resources has always been either a State Minister or a Cabinet Minister. This Ministry should have been placed under the charge of the Prime Minister and the irrigation potential should be improved by channelising all the rivers flowing in the country through Planning Commission. I wish to talk about Bihar. Every year Government of Bihar is spending a huge amount of money on relief measures. You can well imagine what will happen in the entire country. Survey of Kosi, Ganga, Kamla and Balan rivers should be undertaken and their potential utilised for irrigation purposes. Relief is granted only when a lot of hue and cry is raised. Goods are loaded in helicopters and aircraft and air-dropped. Fifty per cent of it is bungled and does not reach the poor. Throughout the year Bihar is either affected by floods or droughts. The Govt. has released only 50% amount. Andra Pradesh got 24 crores and 60 lakhs out of 49 crores and 20 lakhs. Arunachal Pradesh was given 75 lakhs out of 1.5 crore rupees. Assam was given 11 crores 25 lakhs out of 22 crore 50 lakhs, Bihar was provided 13 crores and 12 lakh out of 26 crores 24 lakhs. Goa was granted 37 lakhs out of 74 lakhs. Gujarat was given 31 crores 87 lakhs out of 64 crores. A discriminatory approach was adopted in case of Bihar. To grant such a meagre amount for the flood and drought affected victims is highly improper. The Government has decided that 25 per cent will be spent by the State Governments. This decision is wrong. The Bihar Government does not have adequate funds even to give salary to its employees. Then how it can spend 25 per cent amount on relief measures. I urge the Government that the Central Government should spend this 25 per cent amount also. You all know the fury of Kosi river and the devastation caused by it. Kosi river originates from a place on Sino-Nepal border. Ten or twelve years back serious soil erosion had taken place in that area. The matter was discussed in this House also. Crores of rupees have been invested in this Project by Bihar Government. If Government of India does not take any measures to provide assistance for this project on Kosi river, it will not be possible for Bihar Government to mobilise funds. May be, as the Government of Bihar is not headed by your party, you have been behaving in this manner. But the people of

[Sh. Surya Narayana Yadav]

Bihar are also the people of this country. People of Bihar should not be discriminated against. I hope when hon. Minister replies to the debate, he will certainly reply to this point.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Barring some extra-ordinary circumstances, there are generally good rains in Madhya Pradesh. This year, Rain God has been kind enough to Madhya Pradesh. There is not much problem in Madhya Pradesh since the Government of Bharatiya Janata Party had come to power there. People have spoken about Uttar Pradesh and other states. Under normal circumstances, entire Indian land has about 40 crore Ha/F of rain. If rain water is utilised properly, there might not be any floods in the country. Non-utilisation of rain water properly and construction of huge dams instead of small dams have created the present condition. Two hundred big dams are being constructed in the country since long. I consider them white elephants. The plan of construction of these big dams was against the opinion of experts. Had water sheds been constructed in five thousand tracts of land in the country to store 40 crore Ha/F of rain water; the present situation could have been avoided. Out of 40 crore hectare ft of rain water. some water is evaporated. A part of rain water is absorbed by the soil. About two crore Ha/F of rain water is stored in ponds and dams and about sixteen crores Ha/F of rain water flows into the sea along with fertile soil. The dangerous aspect of it is that it causes silting in the river. This silting in the river causes the havoc of floods. Therefore, if the rain water could have been utilised properly, there are so much of water resources in the country that we would not have to face the problem of floods.

It has its links with forests also to some extent. It is related to forests not only to some extent, but to the maximum extent. There has been continuous destruction of forets in our country. In the past, the experts had formulated the rule that 33 per cent area of land of the country should be forest land. According to Government records, 23 per cent of total land in our country is forest, but the pictures received from Satellite show that only 13 per cent of our total land is covered by forests. It appears to me that the forests which were mentioned in Government records earlier, are being considered as forest land even now. It has not been ascertained whether afforestation has taken place there or not. It is just like the place where 'Mullaha' offers his 'Namaz' becomes the mosque. Attention was not paid to see whether afforestation had taken place in those areas or not. If a little attention would have been paid to this aspect, the problem of unemployment in the rural areas would have been solved, and environment would have been protected. It would have certainly helped in timely rains and it would have protected us from the problem of drought.

That is why I had submitted that there is generally good climate in Madhya Pradesh. Some districts of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of drought prone districts. Dhar, Sidhi and Shahdol have also been included in this list. But there is one district which has not been included in the list of drought prone areas. I did not mention it earlier. Had I mentioned it earlier, members would have interrupted me. Since I am concluding, I am referring to that district. In my Lok Sabha constituency of Khajuraho, there are two districts, *viz.* Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur. I have no doubt about Dhar and Khargone being included in the list. But I am doubtful about inclusion of Chhatarpur district in the list of drought prone districts. Shahadol is situated near my constituency. Such districts have been included in the list of drought prone districts where a lot of rain takes place. There is comparatively less rain in Chhatarpur district. I am surprised as to why

Chhatarpur has not been included in the list of drought prone districts. I had accompanied the former Agriculture Minister in the previous Government on a visit to my constituency during rainy season, and asked him to see for himself as to how much rain had taken place in Chhatarpur in comparison to Sidhi and Shahadol. It seems to me that the areas which have got proper representation at the Centre have been included in the list of drought prone districts, but as Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh have not get good representatives so far, these districts have been ignored.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to participate in this discussion, because the hon. Agriculture Minister was present here and he would look into the points raised by me. Official figures which have been forwarded from that place are not based on facts. Keeping this fact in view, survey may be conducted in Chhatarpur area. If survey is conducted honestly, Chhatarpur would have to be included in the list of drought prone districts. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Hon. Speaker Sir, at present Andhra Pradesh is also facing floods. Particularly, there are floods in the Godavari District. Every year, floods in Godavari and Krishna cause heavy damage to paddy crops, resulting in loss of human lives and destruction of property. Every year, Government of India as also the State Government are spending crores of rupees. But there is no proper solution because constructive methods are not being adopted.

My constituency Amalapuram is in the East Godavari district. It is one of the rich paddy and coconut producing areas of the country. The Konaseema area of this region is almost like an island with water on all the four sides. There are a number of canals and rivers in this area. Due to lack of proper modernisation, the drainage and protection systems are not at all functioning. This is resulting in heavy floods which are causing heavy loss to the coconut and paddy crops in this area. Nearly 12 lakh people are living in my constituency. The entire area is protected by flood banks along 272 Km. These flood banks were built very long back, say nearly one hundred years back and they are not able to withstand the recent floods. There is every danger to this area. If there is any breach in this flood bank, the entire area will be submerged in Bay of Bengal and people will lose their lives.

In this connection, through you I request the Central Government to make a proper plan for the modernisation of the irrigation system and to strengthen the flood bank. The drainage system should also be improved by the Central Government itself.

Two months back, there were heavy floods in the Godavari river and there was a boat accident. I raised this matter under Rule 377 in this hon. House. The Prime Minister also sanctioned Rs. 3 lakhs for those people who lost their lives in the accident. Recently I visited my constituency. An accident took place two days back. In this boat accident, 30 people lost their lives and another 20 people have received injuries.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I request the Central Government through you that they must take concrete measures to control floods by strengthening the flood banks and by modernising the irrigation and drainage systems in this area.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Rajasthan wish that flood should come there but it is unfortunate that there has been no rain so far and people are clamouring for water. There is a saying in our area and we also say with pride that blood is cheaper than

[Sh. Ayub Khan]

water in Rajasthan. But in spite of that water is not available there. Even today, people fetch drinking water from a distance of 10 kilometers. Now-a-days, some of the districts in Rajasthan have been hit by severe drought as a result of which sowing could not be done till date. I would like to tell you that during 1987-88 the state experienced the most severe famine of the century in which the then Congress-I Government at the Centre had sanctioned a grant of Rs. 550 crores to the State Government. The State Government spent Rs. 250 crores from its own resources. I would like to request the Government to provide more funds to Rajasthan Government so that it could help the farmers and poor at the time of such calamities. She said that every place, where Namaz is offered, cannot be converted into a mosque. I would like to make a request to my sister that she should not see one side of the coin, she should see both sides. She has not spoken these words from the core of her heart. She should try to understand others from the core of her heart. A mosque is never built on grabbed land. It is always built on an honestly acquired land...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): She did not say it with any malafide intention.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Why are you supporting her? I am making approachment with her and you are supporting her. Please don't intervene between the two. I am trying to talk to her direct...(*Interruptions*) ...I was saying that a mosque can never be built on grabbed land. The mosque is always built on an honestly acquired land. Our 'Shariat' and 'Curan' say that there is no difference between a temple and a mosque. Where you pay respect to a temple you should also pay respect to a mosque. If you consider a temple to be a place of worship you should also consider the mosque to be a place of worship 'Ram' and 'Allah' are one. Don't make a difference between the two. Had it been so there would have been a difference between our physical structures. The tears that roll down from our eyes would have been different and of different tastes. The colour blood also would have been different...(*Interruptions*)...

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho):............**

MR. SPEAKER: What Uma Bharati said just now will not go on record.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Sir, I just said this thing to her out of affection...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it aside, Mr. Ayub Khan. You should speak on drought as it is an important matter.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: I am making a submission in respect of my constituency. The farmers of Rajasthan are in distress due to drought ...(*Interruptions*)... Earlier the State Government charged only Rs. 25 for giving an electric connection in Rajasthan. Now it is charging Rs. 25,000 for an electric connection. Nobody knows what are the reasons therefor. I would like to request the Government to grant them more aid so that the farmers could get electric connections and maintain their livelihood. My constituency consisting of the districts of Jhunjhunu and Siker in Rajasthan contribute maximum number of people to military service serving the nation and defending our borders. The military men of that area serving the country are worried now to sustain their families. I would request you, Sir, that the Central Government should provide maximum funds to the State Government. The condition of farmers is worst. How to feed the cattle? Husk is selling at Rs. 2 per kilogram and 'Bajara' is selling at Rs. 3 per kilogram. In this hour of crisis

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****Expunged as ordered by the Chair.**

how a poor farmer can provide food to his family members and fodder to his cattle? How can the people sustain themselves when sowing could not be done. Through you, I demand that maximum grant should be given to Rajasthan Government and also necessary arrangement should be made to give new connections to people so as to enable them to earn their livelihood.

Finally, I would like to conclude after drawing your attention towards a very important matter. The Khetri Project is located in my area. This project is being run by water drawn from underground. It has created a new problem for the farmers because the level of water of wells have gone down because of drawing underground water for Khetri Project. The wells have dried up. Due to this, the farmers of that area are moving from one place to another in search of livelihood. Haryana is at a distance of 20 kilometers from there. Through you, I would like to urge the Government to hold talks with the Haryana Government and arrange water for the Khetri Project by bringing water through a canal from Haryana. With this the water level of wells could be restored and farmers could till their land.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a saying in my area that 'Indian Budget is the gambling of the monsoon'. Today, I am very distressed to say that even after 42 years of independence of our country, it suffers from calamities like drought, famine and floods with a slight change in its climatic condition. Thousands of deaths take place on this account. Livestock also perishes. The human beings also suffer a lot. A poet has correctly said in a couplet:—

"Kahin per Barh, kahin per sukha,
Malik bhi ho gaya hai rukha,
Isse janata ka dil hai bahut dukha,
Pashuon ko bhi rahna pad raha hai bhukha".

Sir, through you, I would like to say that a piquant situation has arisen in Rajasthan. As one of the hon. Members was saying just now that while there is an acute drought in western and northern Rajasthan flood has occurred in Kota and other areas of Rajasthan. Even the army was called there. Rajasthan is such a state where the people are falling victims of famine as there is no certainty and regularity of monsoon. The sheep of Rajasthan are helplessly moving to Madhya Pradesh in search of grazing grounds. The camels of the area and thousands of cows of northern and western parts of Rajasthan are also moving to Madhya Pradesh for their survival.

Sir, I would make a submission to the Government through you that maximum assistance should be granted to Rajasthan from Natural Calamities Fund to face the famine because the financial condition of Rajasthan is weak otherwise also. It has maximum desert area. Otherwise also there is scarcity of drinking water there. As ghee is not easily available except at certain places and people eat bread just by smearing it with ghee, similarly the time is fast approaching when people will have to take bread with water. Therefore, my submission is that small bunds, anicuts and small ponds should be constructed in the flood prone areas. The water of the Ganges and Yamuna goes waste as it is allowed to follow down into the sea. My submission is that for a permanent solution of this problem the flood waters of the Ganges and Yamuna should be routed to Rajasthan through a canal, as is done in the case of Sutlej's water which is routed to Rajasthan through Indira Gandhi Canal.

Alongwith this, there is acute shortage of drinking water in drought affected areas. In such areas the proper arrangements for supply of drinking water is needed. Arrangements for providing some water for dry land farming are also to be made.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Finally, I would like to say that every year we spend thousands crores of rupees to combat the calamities but we do not make arrangement in advance. We wake up only when we find ourselves in the grip of calamities. Finding of a permanent solution to the problem of flood and drought is the need of the hour otherwise crores of rupees will continue to be spent on providing reilef every year and the problem is not going to be solved permanently. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should seriously devote itself to finding a permanent solution and provide funds from Natural Calamities Fund so that people may get relief as well as employment. Alongwith this the problem of drinking water may be solved.

With these words, I express my thanks.

[*English*]

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA (Nowgong): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this discussion on floods and Droughts. The problems of drought and flood are national problems.

In this House, we have been discussing these problems for years together. But till now, we have not found out any solution to these problems. In some parts of India, there is excess water. In some parts of India, there is scarcity of water and again in some other parts of India, there is dispute regarding water.

You can take the example of Punjab, Haryana, Tamilnadu and Karnataka. I am coming from a most backward State of Assam. In Assam, there is no problem of drought; there is a problem of floods, which is a perennial problem.

We have been discussing the problems of floods and drought in this House for the last so many years, but there is no solution. From the middle of June upto the first week of August, there were three floods in quick succession; they were not only floods but devastating floods, causing immense damage to the roads, school buildings, hospitals, bridges, dwelling houses, forests, fishery; from one end of the State, right from Sadia to Dhubro, covering a distance of 800 kms. the entire area has been under water. There is a river island which is supposed to be the largest river island in the world known as Mazuli. The entire river island is under water. So, the entire population had to be shifted to the place of safety. The standing crops and thousands and thouands hectares of land had been washed away; and thousands and thousands of cattle had also been washed away. More than one hundred people lost their lives. The devastating floods are not only causing suffering to the Assam Valley but also the Berk Valley.

There are two major rivers. Brahmaputra River is one of the mighties rivers in India having 40 tributaries: and all the beds of the tributaries and the mighty rivers have been silted up. As a result frequent devastating floods are occurring there causing immense damage to the property of the people; and thousands and thousands of people have been rendered homeless. The people had to take shelter under the heat of the sun, storms and rains.

The Government of India has extended relief to the suffering people, but the total money granted for relief has not reached to the suffering people. Out of the total money granted, only 40 per cent has reached to the beneficiaries: 60 per cent of the grant has been misused. There is a particular section of the people who find it a source of their earning during the flood time.

Temporary measures could not serve any purpose. Crores and crores of rupees have been spent on temporany measures, but they are good for nothing. Therefore, I suggest that the Government must take some permanent measures to control floods in a phased manner.

The Government of India considered Brahmaputra as a national water. Therefore, in order to control that water, the Government of India constituted a Board known as Brahmaputra Floods Control Board. The Board has submitted two Master Plans for controlling floods, but nothing has been done. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India that instead of giving grants or extending relief measures every year, they should take up some permanent steps because the entire country more or less suffers from these floods. Crores and crores of rupees have been spent in the name of relief, but only 40 per cent of the entire grant reaches the poor section of the people and 60 per cent is misused. Therefore, my urgent appeal is that instead of spending crores and crores of rupees good for nothing, the Government of India should take some permanent measures in a phased manner to control floods.

There is a Minister incharge of water resources. I know that the function of the Minister incharge of water resources is to formulate a policy in order to utilise the water resources for the benefit of the common people. But it is not the function of the Minister incharge of the water resources to let lose water for causing immense suffering to the poor people. If the Minister incharge of the Water resources cannot perform his function, then that function should be taken away from him and handed over to the Prime Minister so that it could be performed efficiently My earnest appeal is, if this Department cannot function properly and achieve the objectives set out for it, then this Department of Water Resources should be taken over by the Prime Minister.

Therefore, once again, my earnest appeal to the Government of India is to take some steps, permanent steps to control the water of those two mighty rivers including their tributaries so that the people of Assam can be benefited from the water resources of those rivers.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta): Already, Hon. Members have described the damages caused by the drought and the floods. The flood in Assam is an annual phenomenon and the frequency and ferocity have also been increasing. The damage caused to the economy due to floods is also increasing every day. It is estimated that on an average the annual damage is mounting to Rs. 55 crores. Sometimes, it is Rs. 0.3 crores and some times it is Rs. 663.00 crores. Thus, every year there is lot of damage caused which results in damage of crops, properties, loss of human lives and cattle.

The floods in Assam are caused mainly because of the heavy rains ranging from 176 cm to 640 cm and also the heavy siltation of the rivers. The flood prone areas are also on the increase.

MR. SPEAKER : All these points have already been made. It is not necessary to repeat them now. You say that you endorse the speeches made by others.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Because of the extensive damage caused every year, stringent measures to control the floods are utmost necessary in Assam.

Assam is very rich in natural resources and it is also rich in water resources. If these water resources are properly harnessed, the sorrow of Assam can be converted into the prosperity of Assam. The Central Government should immediately take measures on a priority basis to control the floods there. All the rivers, the Brahmaputra, Borak and all the tributaries should be harnessed. All these rivers also cause immense and

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large scale erosion. The erosion of these rivers is creating a serious problem in Assam.

So, I request the Central Government, to take proper measures to control the flood and erosion in Assam and also to rush immediately relief materials to the people in Assam.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. Please conclude now.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Also, I would like to suggest that the Master Plan for Brahmaputra and its tributaries should be executed and the Central Government should take the initiative, a political initiative, so that the rich natural resources of the State are properly taken care of and Assam can become a richer State.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister may now reply.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised a question with your permission the day before yesterday. Yesterday the External Affairs Minister gave us a little information about the developments in Soviet Union and today much more important development has taken place there. It appears that developments have taken place in the reverse direction and almost the *status quo ante* has been restored. I want that the Government should give an authentic information to the House tomorrow because the information is still based on the media reports alone......*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Have you any information about the *status quo ante* situation.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I don't wish to mention the media reports.

[*English*]

Developments have taken place in the reverse direction and almost the *status quo ante* is restored.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Hon. Minister.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you and all the Members who have participated in this debate......*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: I thank you for speaking in Hindi.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will speak in any language you wish, even Sanskrit. I would like to thank all the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion. We have discussed drought and flood both and I am satisfied with the way the subjects were discussed. Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav had initiated the discussion. He has analysed the problem threadbare right from the beginning to the end and no aspect has been left un-discussed. After that, I think more than 50 hon. Members have expressed their views while participating in the discussion. I agree with them because the problem of one is the problem of all. It is quite natural to feel the pangs of other countrymen, more specially their effect is more in rural areas. Incidents like the one that took place or cases of dam-burst, in Mandvi take place very rarely which affect the cities but ultimately cities are also affected when there is drought as the rates of commodities in cities also go up and there is scarcity also.

I have lived in a village and ploughed the fields. So I have seen the farmers suffer the most as they solely depend on nature. God alone knows how the wrath of nature falls, but when the third eye of nature is open, it creates havoc.

It would have been better to reply to the discussion the day it was raised because with the passage of time it becomes stale.

MR. SPEAKER : It has become extremely stale.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Everyday I sit prepared for a call to reply. Even here I had to face a drought of call as if I was also in the grip of it. Today you have invited me and it will be completed today. But in this way certain positive aspects also come to surface. It has two aspects—positive and negative. There is something positive in it. I considered the matter, held discussions and gave a statement. Since then the situation has changed considerably. I would like to speak about the change because it is also important. After my statement on 14th August there is a change in the situation and the change is for the better. There were rains even at the places where there were no rain.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: What is the use of it?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That is not the case. Perhaps you don't know, I had been there on 15th. Earlier, I went there on 3rd. The crops were standing and it had already rained there. People were crying at that time and they were saying that if it did not rain everything would turn into ashes and the animals would not get anything to eat. Today I can say with confidence that wherever there have been rains the crop will be excellent, because I know it as I have been doing this job and no other job at all.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL : There will be only fodder, and no crops.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : You have some misunderstanding. I will take you with me so that you will come to know everything. There are good prospects for the next crop. We can sow oilseeds or something like that.

Shortage of water is very bad. Even animals die without it. I have witnessed famine in 1986-87. That time we had spent Rs. 800 crores in Rajasthan alone. The situation was so bad that people used to leave their animals as they did not even have fodder to feed them. Those animals were set free so that they could fend for themselves. The cattle owners could not see them dying before their eyes. This is my experience. I know how painful it is and one has to suffer a lot.

When there is rainfall the crops are good, though it may be true that all the crops may not be good but rain does make a difference. Recently, when there were rains in Haryana it did benefit the crops. There are no rains in my area so far. I had been to my village a few days back. The entire Western Rajasthan, right from Bikaner down to Ferozepur is dry and if there is some rain, I think it would bring good yield. So, we are still depending on rains.

Both the drought and the excessive rain damage the crops but the intensity of the damage due to excessive rain is much more than that of drought. There is no crop due to drought also and the farmer is ruined. There is no work and the worker does not get wages. There is no food...

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): The drought is much more harmful.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : At least the soil is ready for second crop after the floods. The soil is enriched by natural fertilizers. Earlier, when there were no dams, people had learnt to live with floods. The Ganga-Yamuna delta is fertile because of floods. This is a positive thing. Both good and bad go together. Good

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owes it existence to bad. (*Interruptions*) Somewhere it happens and at other places it does not. I do not say that it should be similar in your state as well. That is a separate issue. Things differ from place to place. In some areas there is only one crop, in others two crops are grown, whereas in some others farmer grow three crops in a year. Can you believe paddy is being harvested in Punjab these days. Then they will cultivate sunflower or 'Raya' or 'Toria' and after that they would sow wheat.

Umaji was saying just now that big dams are white elephants. Madam it is not so. Had there been no Bhakra in the country we would never have become self-reliant in foodgrains; we would have been carrying the begging bowl. On the other hand, Bhakra dam which is over 40 years old is still functioning well and it has given us so much during that period.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho): No we were talking about pending projects.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: They are pending because of our shortcomings or our intentions are not good...

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Thousands of acres of land around the Bhakra Dam has become marshy. Not even a blade of grass grows there.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: No. No. you do not know anything. You seem to have never gone to that place. When you do not know anything, why do you speak. There is no land around and there are mountains only. Marshy tracts of land are never found in the mountains.

I belong to that place and I have been associated with the construction of the dam. I was Minister of Irrigation in the state. Bhakra and Pong dams have proved so useful that the entire area upto Jaisalmer is under green revolution. Yadavji, many children who had not seen rains for the last 7-8 years were terrified when they saw rain. Today, there is a green revolution all around just because of Bhakra dam.

Recently, I saw the paddy crop in Punjab. It is glittering like gold. I hope we would be able to provide more paddy than before. It is all grace of God. It is true that when there is delay, it breeds corruption. Not only that, because of delay there are losses and escalation of prices. Delay of any kind is bad and the people in this country will have to shed this attitude. This is our own country and the workers are ours. The Engineers are ours and we are not being ruled by the whites. Once the non-whites behave properly, everything will become smooth. If patriotic sentiments are aroused these petty delays will be done away with and the country can progress a lot.

When I was speaker I visited many places, throughout the country and abroad. Everywhere I found that those, who had gone abroad with a few dollars in their pockets, were millionaires today. All this was because they had worked hard but one fails to understand why they can't work hard here in this country. If we work hard, all of us; engineers, workers, farmers and others, there is no reason why we can't progress and make the country once again Eldorado. It is my firm conviction.

I was saying that there have been good rains at many places. When we met last time and had discussion, after that there were rains, then there was a wave of drought and no rains for 5-10 days. Now when it has been raining for the last 5-7 days we feel relieved. Now we know what to do. Orissa is demanding five thousand tonnes of seed. Since we have assured them of all possible help, we will do that. There should be no problem. One of the hon. Members said just now that we were not paying any attention to Bihar. Had we not paid attention to Bihar, things would have been different. Many hon. Members meet me everyday and say why don't I go to Bihar. I tell them that I would certainly go there. I first sent Lenkaji my colleague and then appealed to the hon. Prime Minister to pay a visit. I am always ready. Bihar had asked for 40,000 tonnes of foodgrains. Later they raised their demand upto 40 lakh instead of 40,000 tonnes. Then they again asked for ten thousand tonnes and five thousand tonnes. That demand too was met by the Centre. Besides Rs. 10 lakhs were released from the Prime Ministers' Relief Fund. We can release more funds from the Calamities Relief Fund if need be. The Finance Commission took objection to the Central assistance and said that the Centre had no authority to release funds like that. The funds should be sanctioned to the Finance Commission which would release them further. The Centre should give only three shares and the State should bear one share. A committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary and all powers of expenditure were vested in it. Yes I can do one thing. I can fix the criteria for natural calamities. Amount of relief should be sanctioned according to that criteria. I do not have any problem. I am always ready to help. I always believe that we should share the sorrows. That should be our prime duty. We will make all possible efforts to help them. If the State Government wants we can release another instalment of relief. If you want I can release two instalments and I can manage ever for the next year's instalment.

The funds of last year for Madhya Pradesh are with me.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharasa) : Please give it to Bihar.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Bihar has already got it. I have this schedule for Bihar. We have to release Rs. 35 crore for Bihar and we have already released Rs. 13.25 crore. If they need two more instalments, I will give these.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Then give these.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: If they demand, these will be released. When they require they will ask for it. You are asking for Bihar. If Bihar takes up the challenge it can give food to the entire country. That is my firm conviction. Bihar can do it. It is a matter of hard work only. If we are determined no power on earth can stop them from producing a lot. Bihar is rich in natural resources. When workers from Bihar can come to Punjab and produce a lot why can't they produce well in Bihar itself...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: The Central Government must stop their exploitation.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Don't talk of exploitation, that is a different issue...(*Interruptions*) the entire country is one (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: You release the funds...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Please do not rake up a controversy. Please sit down (*Interruptions*) Panigrahiji, why are you adamant. Why are you speaking continuously. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: What about the royalty amount. tions)

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, please sit down. Why do you behave like this. The country depends on states and states depend on the country. They are inter dependent. Bihar alone cannot do anything nor can the country do anything alone. If a state gives minerals it gets other things from some other states. So this is done on reciprocal basis. All of us share the wealth of the country. We

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have to see the requirement of other states and meet those requirements as far as possible. If we work in this direction we would be able to create a national perspective.

Just now an hon. Member was speaking about Karnataka. We have already given Rs. 10 crore to Karnataka and if they want more we can give them more...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY (Jagatsinghpur): The situation in Orissa requires more attention.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That is why the hon. Prime Minister paid a visit there. Besides, my colleague also paid a visit to the State...(*Interruptions*)

I relate the condition of Orissa to you, I know the factual situation of the State. (*Interruptions*) You see, the Executive Secretary of your State says one thing while the Relief Commissioner says the other. There is a vast difference in the figures supplied by both the officers. The officials have been extremely careless, figures are extremely paradoxical. As per these statistics I may tell you that these things are not at all practical.

[*English*]

It is a question of how we deal with the subject and implement that.

[*Translation*]

I was referring to the new developments in the intervening period.

[*English*]

During the week ending 14th August, 1991, monsoon was vigorous or active on some of the days in Himachal Pradesh; Punjab, Hills of West Uttar Pradesh, East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar Plains, Bihar Plateau, Gangetic West Bengal; Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim; Assam and Mehalaya; Gujarat Region; East Madhya Pradesh; Orissa; Konkan and Goa; Vidarbha; Telangana; Goa; Coastal Andhra Pradesh; Coastal Karnataka; Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

As on the 14th August, 1991, out of the thirty-five meteorological Sub-Divisions, twenty-four have received normal or excess rainfall. On a districtwise count, sixty-two per cent of the districts have received normal to excess rainfall—this was on the 14th.

[*Translation*]

This area received normal rainfall in those days, then there was a pause and now again there has been heavy rainfall. God permit, I may visit the place within 15 days and 80 per cent of the problem will be solved.

[*English*]

As on the 14th August, 1991, out of the 35 meteorological Sub-Divisions, 24 have received normal or excess rainfall. On a districtwise count, 62 per cent of the districts have received normal to excess rainfall. This was on the 14th.

A comparative position of Meteorological Sub-Divisionwise and Districtwise rainfall distribution during June 1 to 14th August during the last five years is also with me and I will tell you that also.

During the period 1st June to 14th August, 1991, nine Meteorological Sub-Divisions had received excess rainfall.

Till 19th August, 1991, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mehalaya, Orissa and West Bengal had reported damage due to floods in varying degdegrees.

The State of Assam has experienced three waves of floods—first wave from 5th May to 21st May, second wave from 12th June to 3rd week of July and third wave is continuing from 4th August. Similarly, the State of Maharashtra has also experienced floods twice, first time from 7th June to 20th June and second time from 28th July to 31st July. The State of Karnataka has experienced heavy rains once in the last week of May and then from mid-June to 31st July, 1991.

[*Translation*]

I may give you the details of the extent of damage:—

[*English*]

The details of damage to life and property in these States due to heavy rains and consequent floods, as per preliminary assessment made by respective State Governments as on 19th August, 1991, are as under:

Total number of districts affected	260
Number of Villages affected	15392
Cropped area affected (in lakh hectares)	11.173
Area affected (in lakh hectares)	26.00
Population affected (in lakhs)	213.41
Damage to houses (number)	119111
Number of persons died	873
Number of cattle heads died	89741

So, this is the extent of calamity.

Statewise details are also available with me. The concerned State Governments are taking necessary measures for relief and rehabilitation of affected persons and repair/reconstruction of damaged properties. Some of these measures are as under:

Number of Relief Camps opened	17528
Number of persons in Relief Camps	5.25 lakhs
Number of boats deployed	997
Number of persons evacuated	82459
Number of Health Centres opened	296
Number of food pockets dropped	33000
Distribution of Gratuitous Relief	Rs. 12.78 lakhs

These State Governments have also distributed essential commodities like rice, dal, salt, gur, chira, mustard oil, etc. in the affected areas.

The present situation is that till 14th August, 1991, eleven Meteorological Sub-Divisions have received deficient rainfall. Some parts of the States of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan received deficient rainfall. Now these States have recouped. Haryana has practically completely recovered; it has now recovered eighty per cent. Punjab and some parts of Rajasthan have also recovered. Western Rajasthan is still deficient. The situation caused by delayed monsoon in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana is causing anxiety—but that is over now. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has already drawn the attention of the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana in particular, to draw up Contingency Plan for relief purposes. In particular suggestions for alternative crops in the context of July rains have been made—and this is what we are trying to do: alternative crop pattern is to be prepared for the coming season and it could be delayed wherever it is

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possible—and suggestions for general improvement in the monsoon behaviour have also been specifically made to the States who have also been advised to ensure the supply of agricultural inputs for this purpose. The review of the crop situation as on 19-8-1991 has been made.

During the week (as on 16th August, 1991) the total live storage position in the 56 reservoirs in the country has been 7 per cent more than the previous year. It is more live storage. We had no rains in Himachal Pradesh. But the snow was so much that it flowed and it was overflowing. Even in the last seven years we have not had that much of reservoir capacity.

This is the position of that. Now about the other things which Shri Chandra Jeet Yadavji referred to—about the long term planning and about the flood control—I may say that they are serious problems.

[*Translation*]

It is a very serious and grave matter. Had I been in that position I would also have thought on the same lines that funds are spent every year to meet the drought and floods, why did these still persist. But we have to think with a cool mind that all the arrangements cannot be made in one year. The dams cannot be constructed to tackle the situation at once and the problem cannot be solved immediately. For example we tapped Sutlej in Punjab, but the flood in one of the Sirsa canals, three years ago made futile the whole project. Floods usually occur in one river or the other. Though it is impossible to control the natural calamities completely, every thing possible must be done. I will talk to the Minister of Water Resources and convey your views that the work of the dams under construction should be expedited. I would like all the Members of the House, irrespective of States or the political parties to which they belong, to cooperate in getting this task accomplished. It is not in the interest of a particular party or of an individual but of the whole country. We should employ all our energy and cooperate to do the work and pressurise the Government in power for the same, engineers should be encouraged to be efficient in their work because it is the work of the country. It is our motherland, it has nourished all of us and it is our duty that we should work for its prosperity. If we adopt this attitude all our problems will be solved automatically.

I would also like to submit that earlier I was the Minister of Irrigation in Punjab Government. A 17 Km. long canal was constructed from Pando to Salapad which enabled to generate 12 M.W. of electricity. However, we have to see whether we can manage to get such a large amount of funds at one time or not. (*Interruptions*)

All the works will have to be done turn by turn, because availability of funds is essential as we have to cut the coat according to the cloth. We will have to implement the projects according to the resources we have got.

Most of the Members have referred to the rivers losing their depth due to accumulation of silt and we all are to be blamed for it. It is the curse of the nature. If we do not protect our motherland it will certainly punish us and not others. We have cheated the nature, the country, we have destroyed. the trees. An Indian who loves nature, his motherland but not trees, is a devil. I would like to state the fact that whenever I see a tree being felled I am distressed. We love trees as we love our children: we planted them, nourished them and so we cannot tolerate their destruction. There should be a proper policy even for the exploitation of the trees. There are a number of instances where Government allotted about 500 acres of land to a particular person and that person deforested

5000 acres of land. Such people are traitors and stringet measures should be taken against them. They should be accountable to the Government. The Government should not allow this. Four trees should be planted if one is cut. Otherwise the silting process can not be brought under control.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the silting process would not stop till dams are built, soil and roots are strengthened. Today there is scarcity of water. Ayub Sahib is true that water is not available even at the distance of ten miles. Whenever I visit the place with a motive to seek votes or without any motive, the old ladies plead for the facility of drinking water and nothing else. It really touches the sentiments. Forty five years have passed, I have raised this issue in the House. I think that the hon. Prime Minister while replying to the President's Address had referred to my statement. I had rightly requested the hon. Prime Minister that he must provide at least the facility of drinking water if not other facilities either through pipes or Rajasthan Canal or Indira Canal or Ganga river. Any other work can be stopped to make this provision. It is a matter of utter shame for us that we have not been able to provide drinking water so far. At least drinking water must be provided to the farmers. Water level goes down due to which it is not easy to draw ground water. While on the other side lack of habitation is another problem, lack of rain adds fuel to the fire. The land will become infertile rather it will be converted into desert and ultimately we will be deprived of everything. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to environment. This is also a cause of drought. For this, all people of the country should rise to the occasion. They will have to love trees and worship the nature. Then only something could be done in this regard. The hon. Member has rightly said that the children should be given full fee concession and there should be proper arrangement to make fodder available. Something of a permanent nature should be done. Similarly, afforestation should also be undertaken. All this should be done involving voluntary labour.

Advaniji, I will narrate to you my own experience about voluntary labour. I had just completed my college studies. We villagers constructed a number of roads in Punjab. We constructed roads with voluntary labour. But I find that that spirit is lacking in the country these days. We should inculcate a feeling that we have to do our own work. Today, it is missing. Today people want that even putting food into their mouths should be Government's job. Why can't we work voluntarily for the progress of the country? Voluntary labour will be possible, only when such a feeling of working together for the progress of the country is created.

We got wells dug and roads, school buildings and hospitals constructed with the help of the people. Then the State Government employed workers for their maintenance. This was done by us. Mr. Speaker, Sir, but today, if I want to do some work through voluntary labour, I will not be able to do so, because that feeling is missing. I do not know how we can revive that feeling and from where that flame will come, which will revive this feeling in our hearts that we have some duty towards our country. We only make demands that such and such thing has not been done for us. But what you have done for the country? Have you ever thought about it? I was telling you to think over it.

You have rightly said that a master plan should be prepared. I will ask them to prepare a master plan for dredging out silt. That master plan should actually be implemented. This gap

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between word and deed should be reduced. It is very necessary. I would myself like to lay emphasis on it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Since the gap between word and deed is widening people have lost confidence in the system.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We are involved in it. Whichever party may be ruling this country, but it is our own country. It is the people who are the pioneers of this country. We cannot shirk our responsibility. We have to check this tendency because we are responsible for it. We cannot shirk our responsibility. It should not be that we just come here to deliver speeches and then go away. We have to look into our hearts, our faith, our working capacity, our love, patriotism and our duties. We cannot overlook these things. An hon. Member made a suggestion that tubewells should be provided. Firstly, the existing tubewells should be repaired. Drought situation is fast approaching as the ground water level has gone quite down. This has to be checked. The public distribution system has also to be set right. I will ask my colleague, the hon. Minister of Food to take some effective measures in this regard. For instance we supplied 4000-5000 tonnes of foodgrains in a single consignment.

We have sufficient stock of foodgrains. The matter of concern is that the population has increased and what will be the situation, if it continued to increase like this. This is also a cause of drought. The needs will grow with the increase in population and more food and fuel will be needed. This is the national outlook. This does not concern any single party. No single party can achieve success in takling this problem, when I was the speaker of this House,. I used to say that the cause behind this population explosion is that we never resorted to planning. At the time of partition, the population of our country was only 34 crores and now we are 85.17 crores and all the essential commodities like wood, cloth etc. are needed for people...... (*Interruption*) In villages, the number of children is more than the number of old people. What will be their objective and what will be their future. Have we ever thought as to what is our responsibility towards them and what sort of life we contemplate for them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to this House that we should once again hold a discussion on it and everybody in this House should say that he wants to bring progress in the country by controlling its population. Otherwise. this country will distintegrate and there will be a revolution. If there will be scarcity of food, there will be a revolution. Why do you want to shed blood? The Hon. Members made a mention of the fertilizer prices. I will reply to their point when the discussion on the demands for grants of my Ministry is taken up. There is nothing to be concerned. I have a lot more demands than earlier. I am working at a faster pace to achieve the targets. We don't want to do a thing. which will harm the interests of the farmers. At least, I can't do that. My entire life was devoted to agriculture. I have always advocated their cause and I don't know anything else. I have planted trees, nurtured them and have cultivated the fields...I am a gardener and know how to use a spade....(*Interruptions*) Please don't be concerned. You should change your way of thinking. You should think about how to solve this problem. I have replied about Orissa, Bengal and Maharashtra. Rajasthan has also been hit by drought. The ninth Finance Commission has allotted Rs. 124 crores for Rajasthan. The allocation for the current year is Rs. 46 crores and 50 lakhs out of which their share is Rs. 15 lakhs. The allocation for the coming year is Rs. 145 crores. Some arrears pertaining to last year will also be given. The allocation for Bihar is Rs. 13.25 crores. All the drought hit States have themselve fixed the amount of funds to be allocated to them by discussing it with the Finance Commission. It was not done by us. The Finance Commission said that it is for Centre to decide. The case of Maharashtra was also considered and allocation will be made to them if further demand is made. I have no objection, if national calamity is declared in their state. I will give my thumb impression and ask the Government to make allocations. I will advocate their cause. I have a letter from the defence department. They received the information on the 14th and issued the order on the 15th. They said that they had sent helicopter. It is different that it could not reach due to bad weather. We will help wherever appropriate. You have mentioned about Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh. This matter is concerned with the State Government. You can talk to them. It is for the State Government to decide as to which area will be declared as a drought prone area.

SHRI LOKNATH MISHRA: Shri Patwa will do.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will tell Shri Patwa that Uma ji has told me about this.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Central teams are also sent for investigation. Will you get it investigated?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: If we are asked, we will get it done. Whenever a central team is sent, the State Government says: "who are you to meddle into our affairs." Therefore, I do not want to interfere in the matter unnecessarily.

[*English*]

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): May I know what is the relief given to Karnataka?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Centre reserved for the State Government at least Rs. 20 crores. Next two instalments are due.

[*Translation*]

Karnataka was granted a relief of Rs. 27.25 crores and their two more instalments are also due. We will release them if they demand.

[*English*]

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): The Bychapura tank in Gauri Bidanaur taluk, Kolar district, Karnataka, was breached four years ago. No action has been taken to set it right.

May I know what action Government is taking in regard to Ganga-Cauvery link?

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur): I would like to know about the Ganga-Cauvery Link.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh): I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister of Agriculture. He had replied most of the points and I am happy to learn that a master plan will be prepared in this regard. I would like to draw his attention to two points. First some of the States are not permitted to spend funds from their next year's allocation to be made by the Finance Commission when they confront a natural calamity. Shri Mathur was saying that the funds sanctioned during the current year were not allowed to be spent during the next year in case the same could not be spent during this year. Secondly, the programme for checking denudation of forests should also be included in the master plan. Because the total land under forest cover has reduced to 15 per cent. but it should be increased to 23 per cent.

[Sh. Chandrajeet Yadav]

Please also give the details of the amount demanded by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the actual allocation made to them.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Last year it was Rs. 90 crores, out of which Rs. 22-23 crores are still lying with them. It was approximately Rs. 100 crores. We have allocated only 75 per cent. Their demand is near about Rs. 150 crores. Out of this the centre has provided Rs. 60 crores.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: During the holidays just 4 days ago, I along with the hon. Minister of Agriculture went to Jhunjhunu and Sikar. In every village, there was acute shortage of water and we have seen women carrying children in their laps and clamouring for water. While we were in the midst of the people, I told the hon Minister that the entire Jhunjhunu and Sikar districts were facing acute shortage of water and I requested him to make some arrangements for water there. Therefore, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will give some assurance about the Indira Gandhi Canal which was approved for providing drinking water to the people of those areas.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I was speaking about you and major part of my reply related to drinking water. This does not come under my Ministry. I am as much concerned as you are. Environment is a most important issue. It is the main ingredient. It should be done on priority basis. Without it, we cannot take up environment work. It is Rs. 33 crores for this year and the additional resources under the current plan is Rs. 58 crores, the total comes to Rs. 91 crores.

[*English*]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, I want a clarification (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no clarification now. Shri Lokanath Choudhury, please sit down. The Ganga-Cauvery issue pertains to the Ministry of Irrigation, not to the Ministry of Agriculture. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: My point is that the Chief Secretary of Orissa has given a report. The Relief Commissioner has also given in report but both are contradictory in nature. So, I want to know how they are contradicting each other. How does it take place?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I can give you that account. First, I give you the Chief Secretary's details. This is of 14th August 1991. The total number of villages is 9404; number of Gram Panchayats—9091; Number of Blocks—101, with a population of about 51 lakhs. This is of the Chief Secretary's figures. The Relief Commissioner's information is: the number of Blocks—70. About 4200 villages have been affected and the population is about 50 lakhs. 200 villages have been marooned.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): I think there is no contradiction These reports seems to have come on different days.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: They came on the same day. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: How can the Minister will reply. You ask questions one by one.

[*English*]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduar): Sir, I want a clarification from the hon. Minister. We have already got about 500 Meteorological Stations in this country. How are they functioning? Have they forecasted this calamity or not? This must be made clear.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We have been forecasting. Our people have been doing it. I think we are putting up more stations in Nepal also in order to coordinate things. I have already said this in my earlier statement. But, as you know, the nature is so whimsical and even the advanced countries cannot predict exactly. Please look at China. What about Brazil? What about Europe? So, something is beyond our control. But at least this time what they have predicted is practically a normal thing. It is 4 and odd point this way and that way. It is about 94 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: We have discussed a very important topic. The hon. Members have cooperated and debated very splendidly. They deserve our thanks and congratulations.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 22nd August, 1991 at 11 A.M.

20.28 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 22, 1991/*Sravana* 31, 1913 (*Saka*)

MGIPCBE—S3—24 LSS/ND/91—14-3-92—700.